

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed August 25, 2004, the Examiner has rejected all pending claims 1-16. Claims 1, 2, and 16 have been amended to better clarify the invention by indicating that the communication assistance device and the communication device reside in the user terminal and to indicate that the transmission object is transmitted over a conversation space, for example, in a chat system, that is, a channel. Claims 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 have also amended to recite a channel instead of a network. New claims 17, 18, and 19 have been added. New claims 17 and 18 depend from claims 1 and 16, respectively, and correspond to claim 3. Claim 19 is a new method claim and adds no new matter (support may be found throughout the specification). Thus, in view of the foregoing, claims 1-19 are pending in the application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of claims 1-16 and consideration of claims 17-19. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's objections and rejections are traversed below.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejection

The Examiner has objected to claims 1, 2, and 16 due to insufficient antecedent basis in the claims. Applicants have amended the claims to correct the antecedent basis problem.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 8-10 and 16 as being anticipated by United States Pat. No. 6,226,678, issued to Mattaway (hereinafter Mattaway).

Mattaway is directed to a method for allowing real-time communications with users having only a temporary or dynamically assigned Internet Protocol (IP) address over a network. The "directory server apparatus" stores the IP addresses of current users and provides the IP address of one user to another user, thereby enabling the users to communicate. See Mattaway, Abstract.

The method of the present invention as defined by independent claim 1, for example, includes correlating conditions, such as a message exceeding a given number of lines, with processing for the condition, for example, preparing a webpage on which the message appears and transmitting the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) of the webpage on which the message appears into the channel. The conditions relate to the transmission object, for example, a message. In at least one embodiment, the URL is transmitted into the channel in the same manner that an ordinary message in a chat, for example, is sent. Therefore, a message having more than the given number of lines will not occupy the display screen for the chat. Because the

message length is restricted, as the message is displayed on the webpage, it is easier for the user to read previous or next messages and to understand the entire conversation. *See* Specification, page 5, line 21 – page 6, line 10.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the present invention are not anticipated by Mattaway, as Mattaway does not teach each and every element of independent claim 1, for example. In particular, Mattaway does not teach, “***correlating conditions relating to a transmission object*** to said same network ***with the processings for said transmission object***.” Rather, Mattaway discloses an application program at a client side consisting of object modules written in a programming language, such as C++. According to Mattaway, the modules work together in a concerted fashion to provide real-time transmission and reception. *See* Mattaway, column 15, lines 6-10.

Applicants respectfully submit that Mattaway does not disclose any information regarding a ***correlation*** step as recited in claim 1, for example. In fact, Mattaway does not disclose any information regarding a correlation step, period. Mattaway simply discloses information pertaining to a set of object modules written in programming languages. Moreover, in the present invention, the transmission object, to which the conditions relate, is a message that is to be transmitted, for example. An Internet Protocol (IP) address as disclosed in Mattaway is not a message that is to be transmitted.

In addition, Applicants submit that the device of Mattaway is a single device (server), which is available for use by any user connected to the internet. In direct contrast, the communication assistance device used in the communication device in the present invention is intended as an addition to each user's terminal, as indicated by the language of newly amended claim 1, which recites, “said communication assistance device and said communication device ***residing in a user terminal***.”

For the reasons offered above, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 2, and 16 are patentable over the reference Mattaway. Dependent claims 3-15 depend from independent claim 2 and are thus patentable over Mattaway for at least the reasons offered above with respect to claim 1 (claim 2 recites language similar to that of claim 1), in addition to other reasons.

For example, dependent claim 13 recites, in relevant part, “. . . stored as a condition in said first storage means is that said transmission object contains a word that ***another user*** has made a keyword in said ~~network~~ channel to which said transmission object is to be sent.” Thus, the present invention, as defined by claim 13, is directed to a storage means that stores

user-dependent user information in accordance with the conditions and processings. In other words, the present invention can tailor make a system in accordance with the user's preferences. See Specification of the Present Invention, page 9, lines 11-14. In contrast, Mattaway describes that the connection server provides only directory and information related services, that is, standard services. See Mattaway, column 12, lines 40-41.

Applicants submit that dependent claim 3 is also patentable over Mattaway for reasons in addition to the reasons offered above with respect to claim 1. In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that Mattaway does not teach, "second storage means storing user-dependent user information which corresponds to said conditions and processings." Rather, as shown in Fig. 15 of Mattaway, Mattaway teaches only one database (labeled 1516) with a database server 1518. The Examiner referred to database 1516 in Mattaway as teaching the first storage means of the independent claims of the present invention. Assuming *arguendo* that this is true, Mattaway does not teach a second storage means, as recited in claim 3.

Applicants also respectfully submit that new claim 17 is patentable over the reference, as the reference does not teach, "storing user-dependent user information which corresponds to said conditions and processings [as recited in claim 17 via claim 1]." In contrast and as previously described, Mattaway discloses that the connection server provides only directory and information related services, that is, standard services. See Mattaway, column 12, lines 40-41.

New recording medium claim 18 corresponds to new claim 17 and is also patentable over the reference for the same reason offered above with respect to new claim 17. Applicants submit that new claim 19 is patentable over the reference for the same reason offered above with respect to claim 1. In addition, the reference does not teach transmitting an object as recited by the language of claim 19.

It is submitted that the pending claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102. It is further submitted that the claims are not taught by the cited references. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

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If any further fees, other than and except for the issue fee, are necessary with respect to this communication, the USPTO is requested to obtain the same from deposit account number 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: _____

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By: _____



J. Randall Beckers
Registration No. 30,358

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501